

2006
December



UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

Dairy “Roadshow” Jan 11

Langlade UW Extension will host the annual tour of UW dairy specialists as they make their way across the state. Call us if you haven't received a registration. 627-6236

Managing Cows with Clinical Mastitis

Dealing with clinical mastitis is a common aspect of managing dairy animal health. Principles of developing a management plan for dealing with clinical mastitis will be presented.

Dr. Pam Ruegg, D.V.M. UW-Extension Milk Quality Specialist

Strategies to Improve Profitability

Should I add more cows, invest in a parlor, or switch to grazing? There are a myriad of ways to improve profitability. Various methods of improving dairy profitability are discussed.

Invited UW-Ag Economists from the Center for Dairy Profitability - may include Bruce Jones or Gregg Hadley

Twinning and Neonatal Calf Mortality

Twinning in dairy cattle is an unavoidable outcome of reproduction. It is undesirable because it reduces the overall profitability of a dairy operation through negative effects on cows calving twins as well as on calves born as twins. Management strategies to decrease neonatal calf mortality will be presented.

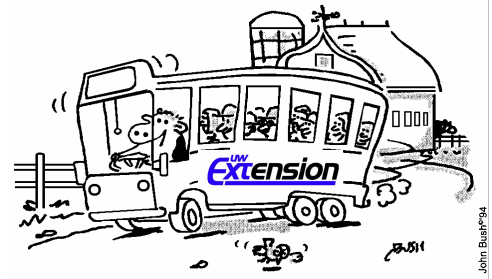
Dr. Paul Fricke, UW-Extension Dairy Reproduction Specialist

Inside this issue:

Hybrid Corn Selection Workshop	2
PAT Trainings Scheduled	2
Corn price and feeding cows	3
Corn Moisture Conversions	3
NTC Ag Programming Session	4



Merry Christmas!



Compost and Bedded Pack Housing

The use of compost bedded barns and other bedded pack pen loose housing systems for dairy animals will be discussed. Design options and management experience of what is working will be covered in this update.

Dr. David W. Kammel, UW-Agricultural Engineer

Seminar runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Knights of Columbus (“KC”) Hall. \$20/person includes meal and materials. Check to UW Extension.

Dates to Remember:

- Dec 5-7 Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market Expo
Grand Rapids, MI
- Dec 6 Soil and Water Management & Fertilizer Dealer Meeting
Shawano, WI
- Dec 7-9 National Potato Council Potato Seed Seminar, Chicago, IL
- Dec 8 NTC Ag Programming Informational Meeting
- Dec 14 Corn Hybrid Selection Workshop
Langlade Resource Center
- Jan 7-9 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Oconomowoc, WI
- Jan 11 Dairy Roadshow—Gaining the Competitive Edge Dairy Seminar
Knights of Columbus Hall, Antigo
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hybrid Selection Workshop December 14 - WisLine

December 14, 2006 from 9:30-12:00 Langlade Resource Center

Due to the huge number of transgenic traits marketed in corn hybrids today, a significant challenge for farmers is to wade through all of the hype, advertising and information to select adapted hybrids for their farm.

Kostichka handles balloon

What's an environmental scientist with a specialty in plant pathology from a small town in Wisconsin doing in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®? Handling the popular *Healthy MR. POTATO HEAD™* balloon as the proud representative of Wisconsin potato growers, that's what. "As a potato researcher in the state of Wisconsin, I deal with all Wisconsin potato growers — from fresh and processing to seed and chip potatoes," says Chuck Kostichka. "I don't grow potatoes myself, but I'm proud to serve the Wisconsin growers as a researcher, and help them accomplish their goals as progressive Wisconsin potato farmers." That's why Kostichka thinks he was chosen to go to the parade and serve as a balloon handler.

On December 14, Carla Heiman and Joe Lauer will be presenting to farmers in Green Lake County a workshop on corn hybrid selection. The workshop will be linked to the WisLine system providing a state-wide opportunity for farmers and consultants to get the latest UW information on corn hybrid selection.

The procedure for the workshop is that Carla will present a PowerPoint on "How to use the UW Corn Trials to Select Hybrids" and Joe will present another PowerPoint going into more detail about the principles behind hybrid selection. This will be followed with a "Hands-On" session actually going through and using the

book to develop a "short list" of hybrids that can be used to negotiate price with seed dealers.

Following the presentations the agent will assist growers in developing the short-list, and foster discussion and help address farmer questions (to Carla and I via WisLine, if need be). We are hoping for a state-wide discussion among farmers on this important annual management decision.

There are a number of objectives with the program but the main goal is for farmers to leave the workshop with a "short list" of hybrids.

PAT Training Sessions Scheduled

Our records show a large number for this years PAT recertification classes. If you're pesticide applicator certification has expired in 2006 or will expire in 2006/2007 and you need to recertify please register ASAP. You must re-certify if you desire to continue to use restricted-use pesticides. This years Antigo dates will be February 20 and March 20, 2007

You have two options for re-certification. You may either attend a one-day training session and take an open book evaluation (50% minimum passing score), or you may self-study the training materials and attend an open book, pass/fail examination (70% minimum passing score). The program will be located in The Resource Center across from the courthouse at 837 Clermont Street. Cost of registration which includes

the training manual, is \$30 per individual.

Please bring the proper documentation (your SSN and a photo ID) and a hand held calculator with you to the exam site the day of training. You may contact the Langlade County Extension Office at 627-6236 for further information.

ANTIGO LOCATION

February 20, 2007

March 20, 2007

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

OTHER LOCATIONS

March 8- Merrill

March 13- Colby

March 15-Wausau

March 22-Stratford

High corn prices continue, will it change the way you farm?

I certainly hope your on the money making side of the high corn prices. If your not, you may consider increasing corn acreage next year. If ethanol plant projects meet expectations, there will be a substantially greater demand for corn once they come on-line. There is certainly is a lot of "talk" and speculation going on that is difficult to sift through and we have to be careful who we believe. Here's something to consider from

Bruce Jones, UW Madison Ag Economist. He has this to say about the economics of feeding corn to lactating cattle: "For every pound of corn/concentrate fed, .86 pounds of milk have been gained. This positive production response is strong and it means in most cases the value of milk gained typically covers the cost of corn. [Our calculations show] that when corn is \$3.50 per bushel a positive return is gained so long as milk price is

\$8.20 or higher. Bottom line: even when corn is expensive and milk price is around \$12-13, positive returns are generally gained from keeping the corn in the ration." The following guide has been a popular item at the Extension office this fall and might be a good item to have around perhaps yet this year, and certainly next season. If you misplace it between then, just call and I'll send you another one.

Estimated pounds of corn at selected moisture levels to equal one bushel of shelled corn at 15.5% moisture and approximate number of bushels of 15.5% moisture shelled corn in one ton of wet corn (one-half of one percent

Percent Moisture in <u>Kernels</u>	Pounds of Ear Corn to Equal 56# <u>15.5% Shelled Corn</u>	Bushels of 15.5% Shelled Corn in One Ton of <u>Wet Ear Corn</u>	Pounds of Shelled Corn to Equal 56# <u>15.5% Moisture Shelled Corn</u>	Bushels of 15.5% Shelled Corn in One Ton of <u>Wet Shelled Corn</u>
16.0%	69.5	28.8	56.6	35.3
17	70.8	28.2	57.3	34.9
18	72.1	27.7	58.0	34.5
19	73.4	27.2	58.7	34.1
20	74.8	26.7	59.5	33.6
21	76.2	26.2	60.2	33.2
22	77.7	25.7	61.0	32.8
23	79.2	25.3	61.8	32.4
24	80.8	24.8	62.6	31.9
25	82.4	24.3	63.4	31.5
26	84.1	23.8	64.3	31.1
27	85.8	23.3	65.2	30.7
28	87.6	22.8	66.1	30.3
29	89.4	22.4	67.0	29.9
30	91.3	21.9	68.0	29.4
31	93.2	21.5	69.0	29.0
32	95.1	21.0	70.0	28.6
33	96.9	20.6	71.1	28.1
34	98.8	20.2	72.2	27.7
35	100.7	19.9	73.3	27.3

NTC Informational Session



Langlade County

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On Dec. 8, 2006 from 10 a.m.—12 a.m. at the Antigo Campus Room 102 of North Central Technical College an Informational Session on Dairyland State Academy and the education programming will be held. In addition to speaking on Dairyland State Academy, offerings beginning as soon as next semester



will be announced, including several classes required by the Farm Service Agency for new borrowers. This training will be offered in a training certificate. A new two year program will be discussed.

Producers and stakeholders are encouraged to attend to hear about the program offerings.

Community leaders in north central Wisconsin are developing a new model for post-High School agriculture education. Their vision is to stimulate the economic vitality of the dairy and related industries through education, business development, and practitioner engagement.

For more information about Dairyland State Academy prior to the meeting call Scott Mickelsen, 715-675-3331 Extension 4373. or visit the website at: <http://marathon.uwex.edu/ag/agpartners/dsa.html>

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